

WAR NEWS.

For several days past, there have been indications that an important movement would soon be made on the peninsula, which would be nothing less than an entire change of the position of Gen. McClellan's army. Information is now received that the great body of the army of the Potomac is about to withdraw down the peninsula. On Monday and Tuesday last, transports, heavily laden with troops, passed Fortress Monroe, moving up the Chesapeake to some of the Virginia rivers. Per contra, a dispatch from Washington says:—"Those who ought best to know, deny that there has been a change of McClellan's army from the peninsula, and assert that he is at his headquarters at Harrison's Landing, with his command."

A report comes by the way of Memphis that the Confederate Generals Breckinridge and Van Dorn are combining their forces for an attack on New Orleans, and it is believed that the movement will soon be made.

The Washington National Republican, commenting on the movements of the army of Gen. McClellan, says: "The whole movement of our army to the Peninsula was a clear mistake, and there has been no day since it has been there when it would not have been wise to have withdrawn it. It is wise now, and the country will rejoice to learn that it is at length being executed. It is plain as anything can be, that the advance upon Richmond should be made upon one line, and not upon two; with all the hazards of a failure of co-operation between two armies. It is equally plain that the advance should be made from the front of Washington; so that the advancing army may itself be a protection to Washington. The diversion to the Peninsula cut our army into two parts, it being indispensable that a considerable force should be left to cover the national capital. All this is so plain, that it seems idle to attempt to enforce it by any argument. It is no time to go into controversies, but it is proper to be said, that the Secretary of War steadily resisted the movement to the Peninsula. General McClellan insisted upon it, however, and carried the point. We shall know, by and by, who were his military advisers in that particular.—An advance upon Richmond in the right way is now to be made, and its decisive and early success may be anticipated. Our armies, being brought together, are vastly superior to those of the enemy, in numbers, equipment, courage and efficiency. There is no sort of difficulty in crushing out the rebellion in Virginia, upon Secretary Stanton's motto—'Advance and fight!' No more dithering, but forward. That is the policy to-day of Gen. Pope, and, as we believe, of the President and of Gen. Halleck. The country will tolerate nothing else."

An important local improvement has been initiated by the Washington City Railway Co. Finding the grade of the road too steep south of the Capitol, they broke ground on Thursday north of it, near First street west. A branch is to extend to the railroad depot, and another through the Capitol grounds, and thence to the navy yard.

The President of the United States has appointed R. M. Blatchford, of New York, to be Minister Resident at Rome, vice Alexander W. Randall, late Governor of Wisconsin, who has been recalled at his own request with a view to entering the military service of the U. States.

HON. J. S. CARLILE.—At a meeting of the Union men, in Taylor county, Va., a resolution was passed, condemning the course of this Senator in "voting with secessionists and secession sympathizers," and requesting him "to resign a position he has shown himself unworthy to fill."

At a war meeting, held in Wheeling on the night of the 12th, a resolution "condemning and repudiating the course of Mr. John S. Carlile, and calling upon him, as a representative of his constituency, to resign his position as United States Senator, and retire within the rebel lines," was adopted.

On Wednesday, a detachment of the provost guard brought to Washington the following residents of Bladensburg, and carried them to the central guard-house, where they are still in custody: J. S. Suit, Bassill T. Duckett, John E. Jones, James G. Hardisty, Wm. Jones, H. T. Scott. Subsequently Edward Suit and W. Brown, also of Bladensburg, were arrested by Captain Cadwalader, and taken to the central guard-house.

Advices from Port Royal report Gen. Hunter's negro brigade to have proved a failure, and that it has been disbanded.

A fugitive contraband, who has arrived at Port Royal, states that there were only 2,000 Confederates at Savannah. He also says that the ram Fingal was a mere floating battery, of little power, with eight guns, and the officers are afraid to take it out of Savannah river.—The Confederates are in strong force on James and Daufuskie Islands.

Brig. Gen. Lane, of Kansas, took the field in Missouri on Monday, with 5,000 cavalry.—He will be joined in the interior by 150 more troops.

By a return just issued it appears that the last year's expenditure by the English Government on its ocean postal service amounted to nearly five millions of dollars, and about one hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars more than had been appropriated for that purpose. It is alleged that the returns from this particular source during the last year have fallen very greatly below those of previous years, owing to the American war.

A rather extraordinary law case is now pending in the English Courts. It is an action on a promissory note, made at Charleston, S. C., and payable at one of the northern banks. The counsel for the defendant has recently moved for leave to file a special defence of the following nature: The plaintiff was a citizen of the Confederate States, and defendant of the Northern States, but now residing in England. Since the breaking out of the war, a law has been passed by the Federal Government prohibiting all its citizens from paying any debts they owed to parties belonging to the Southern States, on pain of being treated as traitors. The law further directed that, in such cases, the debtor was to pay the amount into the treasury of the United States, and this the defendant alleged had been done by his partner in America. The counsel stated that his client would be liable to be hanged if he paid the debt here. On this statement, the Court permitted this defence to be filed.

D. A. Mahoney, editor of the Dubuque (Iowa) Herald, was arrested at an early hour Thursday morning by the United States Marshal, charged with discouraging enlistments.

ORDER IN REGARD TO ARRESTS.—The following order has been issued by Brig. Gen. Sturgis:

HEADQUARTERS REG. VS. ARMY CORPS,
ALEXANDRIA, VA., Aug. 18, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS,—No. 35.

I.—As much embarrassment is created at these Headquarters, and unoffending country people and citizens greatly inconvenienced by the fact that many officers and men of this command fail to exercise a sound discretion in making arrests, it is ordered that no person will be arrested or molested while pursuing their ordinary avocations within the lines of this Corps, or while coming from or returning to their homes, unless there is good reason to believe the party or parties to be inimical to the Government of the United States. Commanding officers will see that this order is understood by the Guards of their respective command. By order of

Brig. Gen. STURGIS.

HENRY R. MICHELS, Capt. and A. A. G.

Gen. Pope's official report of the battle of Cedar Mountain is published. He gives the troops under General Banks great praise for their constancy and ardor. General Banks' conduct is declared intrepid and cool, and the Generals of Brigades are praised for conspicuous gallantry. Generals McDowell and Sigel are complimented. The Federal loss is stated to be fifteen hundred killed, wounded and missing, including nearly three hundred taken prisoners. The loss of the Confederates, Gen. Pope thinks was much in excess of the Federal.

President Lincoln gave audience to a delegation of free negroes yesterday, during which the disabilities of the colored race were directly but temperately presented to their consideration, with advice in the premises. The President, in the course of his remarks, suggested Central America as a suitable place for the colonization of the colored race, and finally dismissed the committee, telling them to take their own time for a reply. The Baltimore American says:—"He told them some plain truths, enforced by sound argument, but we imagine it was time and effort wasted."

The U. S. War Department has issued an additional regulation in relation to the draft.—It is directed that the quotas of the several States shall be apportioned among the counties thereof, and that allowance shall be made to such counties for all volunteers furnished by them. It is also ordered that after the 15th instant the United States bounty and advanced pay shall not be allowed to volunteers to any new regiment, but only to those volunteering to regiments now in the field, or to regiments now organized but not filled up. After the 22d instant incomplete regiments now forming will be consolidated and superfluous officers mustered out. Volunteers to the regiments in the field will be received and paid the bounty until the 1st of September. The draft of 300,000 men will be made on the 4th of September. If the old regiments are not filled up by the 1st of September, a special draft will be ordered to fill them up. No officers will be allowed to leave their commands now in the field to accept new commands.

By order of Gen. Walsworth, ten penitentiary prisoners and ten negroes imprisoned for violating the blockade, have been sent by the provost marshal to Piney Point, to be released at the end of two months, if found sober and industrious. They are employed on the new hospital at the Point.